

**121st MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CANCER ADVISORY BOARD (NCAB)
MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET**

February 20, 2002
11:55 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.

Welcome/Opening Comments—Ms. Ellen Stovall

Ms. Stovall chaired the meeting of the Subcommittee on Planning and Budget with Ms. Cherie Nichols serving as Executive Secretary. Ms. Stovall reviewed the five items on the agenda and directed attendees' attention to three handouts: "Selection Criteria for New Extraordinary Opportunities and Challenges," a slide presentation, "Overview: How NCI Plans and Sets Priorities," and a review, "The Nation's Investment in Cancer Research: External Review of Draft Bypass 2003, July 2001." She then thanked Dr. von Eschenbach for his leadership with the bypass budget and invited him to share his vision for this budget.

The Nation's Investment in Cancer Research (Bypass Budget): The Director's Vision

Dr. von Eschenbach thanked Mr. John Hartinger for his guidance in assembling the budget. He stated how important it was that the current administration lived up to its pledge to continue to provide resources for the biomedical community, despite the competing funding pressures. He emphasized that funding cancer research is an investment. And, as an investment, requiring some return, he suggested that the question of how the NCI is influencing people's lives be asked. He described the budget planning as an opportunity to combine the potential benefit of cancer research with the needs of those who are most affected. Not only is the breadth of the research portfolio important, but also the balance of the portfolio. With this idea in mind, Dr. von Eschenbach stated that it was important create a mechanism to look at the broad picture of NCI involvement in cancer projects, and to think about the role of the NCI in the cancer community at large. He stated that in the 2003 budget, he is placing a continued priority on expanding the number of R01s, and accelerating translational research.

Dr. Susan Love asked how the success of individual programs could be evaluated, since it was important to continually assess if the programs supported by the NCI were the best mechanism. Dr. von Eschenbach agreed that there should be an evaluation component to NCI-supported programs.

2003 Budget Update

Dr. von Eschenbach introduced Mr. Hartinger, who proceeded to review the 2002 budget. He then outlined the 2003 President's budget, which will be the subject of congressional hearings in the next few weeks. The \$4.7 budget provides increases in most major areas of funding, but also includes the elimination of some 50 administrative slots.

A committee member wondered if there was an evaluation mechanism in place for newer programs, such as SPORes. It was indicated that the program had been a major topic of discussion at a Board of Scientific Advisors meeting, and that program review groups assessed other major programs, such as cancer centers and clinical trials.

There was a question on where additional costs from bioterrorism program funding and additional construction costs will come from. Mr. Hartinger indicated that a portion of the director's reserve fund will pay for some of these costs. Since the exact costs are not known at this time, it is difficult to determine how much money is actually needed. NIH will be getting some funds, but NCI may be asked to contribute as well.

Dr. Larry Norton wondered if the trend towards consolidation of NIH functions would result in less direct control by the NCI over its present and future needs. The reply was that it was unknown at this time how

extensive the centralization model would be followed. Centralization of human resources has already taken place, and is scheduled for public affairs and facilities. The two main concerns of the committee were that (1) it was unclear what the depth and impact of the consolidation would be on the mission of the NCI, and (2) that the time frame was too short. Ms. Stovall indicated that legislation may be introduced shortly that would significantly revise the National Cancer Act, and this might further impact the role of the NCI.

Dr. Norton also was concerned about the shrinkage in the administrative support for the NCI, especially at a time when the budget was growing so rapidly. He thought that this measure could impede the development of better cancer treatment, prevention and diagnosis by significantly straining existing resources.

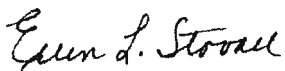
After some discussion, Dr. Norton expressed a desire to articulate the concerns from the Subcommittee on Planning and Budget over potential consolidation and the loss of administrative support. Ms. Stovall indicated that there has been a precedent for resolutions in this committee, and that this would be one mechanism for expressing these concerns. Discussion ensued, with most members agreeing that they wanted to protect the independence and autonomy of the NCI within the NIH. Dr. Norton proposed the writing of a resolution to address these concerns. A working group was then assigned to write a resolution. The members are Dr. Norton, Dr. Love, Dr. Sharp, and Ms. Stovall.

Ms. Stovall thanked the committee members for their input. She indicated that the committee would revisit the handouts at the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Members of the Planning and Budget Subcommittee and the NCAB in attendance:

Dr. Richard Pazdur
Dr. Arthur Nienhuis
Dr. Susan Love
Dr. Marvin Kalt
Dr. Phillip Sharp
Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach
Dr. Alan Rabson
Dr. Howard Koh
Dr. Amelie Ramirez
Dr. Larry Norton
Dr. Frederick Li
Ms. Ellen Stovall
Dr. Elmer Huerta
Mr. Stephen Duffy
Dr. Sandra Million-Underwood
Dr. Ralph Freedman

Numerous other NCI staff and members of the public were also in attendance.



02/20/02

Ms. Ellen Stovall, Chair

Date



02/20/02

Ms. Cherie Nichols,
Executive Secretary

Date